

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-13 amended in Chapter II proceedings by substituting claims 1-11.

Claims 1-11 cancelled.

Claims 14-23 added in Preliminary Amendment dated September 21, 2001 renumbered by Examiner as claims 12-21.

12. (Currently amended) A package of flexible material which has been formed into an envelope, which package comprises an access opening, which is closed by means of a seal which has been formed by bonding together two or more contacting layers of the material in a particular area, which package can be opened by pulling apart two bonded-together layers of material in said area, to which end the flexible material is provided with a pull an engagement portion, wherein said pull engagement portion is positioned in the part of the package configured to envelop the packaged product, and wherein the seal extends the width of the package and is directed inwardly and downwardly towards the pull engagement portion and a bottom of the package, such that a central portion of the edge of the seal is immediately adjacent the pull engagement portion.

13. (Currently Amended) The package according to claim ~~[[14]]~~ 12, wherein said edge of the seal comprises two substantially straight edge portions, which include an angle with each other.

14. (Currently Amended) The package according to claim ~~[[14]]~~ 12, wherein said edge of the seal is substantially curved.

15. (Currently Amended) The package according to claim ~~[[14]]~~ 12, wherein said area has substantially the same width along its length.

16. (Currently Amended) The package according to claim ~~[[14]]~~ 12, wherein the width of said area near the pull engagement portion is smaller than near the edges of said access opening.

17. (Currently Amended) The package according to claim ~~[[14]]~~ 12, wherein said seal is substantially in the form of a stripe.

18. (Currently Amended) The package according to claim ~~[[14]]~~ 12, wherein said seal is substantially in the form of a V-stripe.

19. (Currently Amended) The package according to claim ~~[[14]]~~ 12, wherein said package substantially consists of one piece of flexible material.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a package of flexible material, wherein two or more contacting layers of the material are bonded together in a particular area, in such a manner that the package can be opened by pulling apart two bonded layers of material in said area by engaging said flexible material at the location of a pull an engagement portion, wherein said pull engagement portion is positioned on the part of the

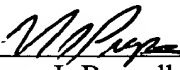
package configured to envelop the packaged product, and wherein the seal extends the width of the package and is directed inwardly and downwardly towards the pull engagement portion and a bottom of the package, such that a central portion of the edge of the seal is immediately adjacent the pull engagement portion.

21. (Currently amended) A method for packaging a product, wherein the product is enveloped with a flexible material, wherein two or more contacting layers of the material are bonded together in a particular area, in such a manner that the package can be opened by pulling apart two bonded layers of material in said area by engaging said flexible material at the location of a pull ~~an~~ engagement portion, wherein said pull engagement portion is positioned in the part of the package enveloping the packaged product, and wherein the seal extends the width of the package and is directed inwardly and downwardly towards the pull engagement portion and a bottom of the package, such that a central portion of the edge of the seal is immediately adjacent the pull engagement portion.

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Respectfully submitted,

WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON
ORKIN & HANSON, P.C.

By 
Nathan J. Prepelka
Registration No. 43,016
Attorney for Applicant
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1818
Telephone: 412-471-8815
Facsimile: 412-471-4094
e-mail: webblaw@webblaw.com